

# The Human Touch

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**And More!**

## Director's Message

I have enjoyed my visits around the state in the past month and I also like meeting the employees and seeing what great work is being done in the field.

Our Support Services Conference in Richfield was attended by our great administrative employees, who asked me some tough questions about everything from computer systems to political controversies. It was great to spend a day meeting with them. I explained that they are critically important to our operations, because without the support of IT, clerical, HR, financial people and administrative people, a program is just "a good idea" with no accountability attached to it. Thanks for all you do to support our programs!

I visited Price last week to attend a community meeting of more than 100 people who came to hear about the work of Child and Family Services in their counties. It was so interesting to hear caseworkers describe their "best" and "worst" days protecting children. The impressive part to me was how much collaboration is obviously taking place in the rural areas. I appreciate all of you that work with schools, police, politicians and citizens to keep teams of support around our clients. Thanks to all the DCFS workers who were willing to share of their time in hosting this meeting.

Also at the forefront this



Lisa-Michele Church  
Executive Director

month is our effort to tackle the Disabilities Waiting List in more creative ways. I made a detailed presentation to several legislative committees about ways of serving more people with limited resources. A good discussion ensued with the legislators. They seem to finally realize that we can make substantial progress on this difficult issue. I look forward to continuing to push for resources. Thanks to all our disabilities workforce for their excellent performance. If it weren't for the good work already being done, we wouldn't be able to ask for more attention to be paid to this issue.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the beginning of a happy holiday season and encourage you to look for ways to celebrate all the successes we have had this year at the Department of Human Services, due to your efforts.

## In Their Own Words - Odyssey House Visit

*By Chad Breinholt*

I must say I was nervous to tell my life story of drug addiction to the Governor of Utah.

At first I was scared for fear of judgment but when I met Mr. Huntsman he seemed willing to listen and very easy going. To tell my story to someone who is eager to learn about and help adolescent treatment was a great privilege. After I told Mr. Huntsman my story, he was very understanding and sensitive to what I had been through. He spent over two hours of his time from being a state leader to come and listen to our stories, thoughts, and feelings. I hope that I gave him enough understanding from my experience to show that there is more to a drug addict's life than just the choice of using drugs; such as life problems, fears, family issues and much more. I was honored to help him see that there are a lot more people out there trapped in the darkness of drug addiction who just need guidance and a way to a brighter and better life. I was happy to tell him that Odyssey House saves lives, as it saved mine. Jon Huntsman seemed to realize how hard addiction must be through our eyes as we told the stories of our deepest



**Governor Huntsman and Chad Breinholt**

fear that we have lived. I now look up to Jon for taking his time to come help and understand our community's problems that a lot of our country leaders seem so naive to. So I would just like to thank Mr. Huntsman for his passion to understand more about the troubles our country has and for his time he spent at Odyssey House to hear our stories. I am happy to have him as my Governor any day.

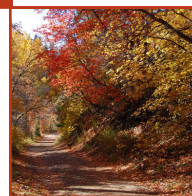
*By Spencer Larsen*

The opportunity to provide a different perspective (a real perspective) on how rehabilitation facilities like Odyssey House, and all programs alike, can truly change lives for the better was a real honor. Governor Huntsman was remarkably sensitive to what we had to say about our experience at Odyssey House, and the positive ways that we have personally grown, to be the people we are proud to say we are now because of the help we received. Walls of social stigmas crumbled as the reverence of the meeting continuously broke down the taboos that often arise (mostly due to lack of knowledge) when many relative topics of drug abuse come up. It was rewarding and exciting to see our Governor show so much respect to us all. I hope that our experience will become a catalyst to provide more opportunity to those in need, who are trapped in the chains of addiction, and who need a chance to obtain the true freedom that I, and many others, have gained from residing in a program like Odyssey House. Governor Huntsman is in a posi-



**Governor Huntsman and Spencer Larsen**

tion to perpetuate this freedom and I believe he will. My gratitude goes out to our Governor, and all who were involved, for their time and their efforts to help make true rehabilitation become a reality to those who are without hope. Thank you for this wonderful chance to learn and grow together even more.





# The Human Touch

## October's Juvenile Justice Services Road Trip

*By Lisa Schauerhamer, Juvenile Justice Services*

**Destination:** Receiving Centers and Youth Services Programs

First, a check in the "JJS Tour Book" to tell us what Receiving Centers and Youth Services Programs are.

Utah's 13 Receiving Centers are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and located in all regions of the state. Law enforcement can bring a youth to a Center for shoplifting, simple assault, possession of a controlled substance, truancy etc. incident instead of a detention center. The Center can then help youth be accountable for their actions and evaluate the youth's risk and needs; Staff also assists the youth and family through the crisis and can return the youth home as soon as possible with community resources and ultimately provide a safer community.

The six Youth Services programs provide intervention to teens and families in crisis due to a youth's ungovernable behavior in their home or community, including running away or serious parent child conflict. Most programs provide counseling to help a family in crisis, and reunite youth with their families. Generally the stay is no more than 72 hours. The age for both types of programs is 12 through 18.

Both Receiving Centers and Youth Services are considered early intervention. It is the hope that these services will help in deterring youth from entering farther into the Juvenile Justice System and by so doing will create healthier families and safer communities.

**Now, let's visit two of Utah's Centers – Richfield and Blanding.**

**Richfield** - The Central Utah Youth Center. Glen Ames, Assistant Program Director, gives a tour of their program. This is a multi-use, secure, non-secure youth facility which also houses Detention, Shelter, Observation and Assessment, work programs and case management.

Richfield's Center began in 1994 as a result of legislative action which established receiving centers as an alternative to admitting youth to detention. Youth from Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne, Piute, Garfield and Wayne Counties receive services from this program. The services provided are crisis intervention counseling and assessment which determines risk and need, a referral to other community based services which can meet the youth and family's longer term needs and a four week follow-up plan to help the youth and family during their time of need. The average length of stay for a youth is three hours. The receiving center works closely with the Juvenile Court, Division of Child and Family Services, Mental Health, law enforcement, and the schools.

The Youth Services Program provides services to the same geographic area as the Receiving Center. The behaviors that the youth are referred for are considered non-delinquent. The programs are provided voluntarily to youth and parents in hopes of resolving family centered problems. Our programs are Case

planning, Crisis Intervention Counseling, Assessment, Observation and Evaluation (14 day residential stay), Aggression Replacement Therapy, Equine Assisted Counseling, Relationship Groups, Personal Development, and NetSmartz (Internet Safety for Parents/Guardian). Other than the 14 day residential program, these services are offered as a community outreach service. The services can last up to 120 days. Services in Sanpete County are provided through a Juvenile Justice Worker. Youth Services is provided in Kane and Garfield counties through the Division of Child and Family Services.

**Next stop, Blanding's Canyonlands Youth Center**

where Mel Laws, Assistant Program Director, and his staff will guide us through their program. Their programs have been running and fully staffed for the past three years. About 50% of the population served are Native Americans.

Once a parent has signed up for the Youth Services program, facility staff will meet with the parents and youth at least once a week to discuss progress. Staff also tracks grades and attendance and visit youth at school when possible. The youth and parents are linked to community services for additional support. Youth can also be served in the facility for up to 72 hours. Usually that is the option used when a youth is acting out at home, is violent, or runs away. School is available Monday thru Friday.

When not in school, youth work on accountability exercises; attend groups such as ART (Aggression Replacement Training), thinking errors, or life skills. Staff also work with the youth doing positive social activities such as; sports, hiking, fishing, museums, parades, community activities, and service projects.

Blanding's Receiving Center is set up like most others through out the state. Youth are brought in by law enforcement and depending on their charges youth may or may not be referred to the Juvenile Court. School is available Monday through Friday. Youth are given an accountability exercise to complete. The youth can be released to their Parents or legal guardian with a community resource list and given a brief orientation to the Youth Services Program, or the youth are released to Detention

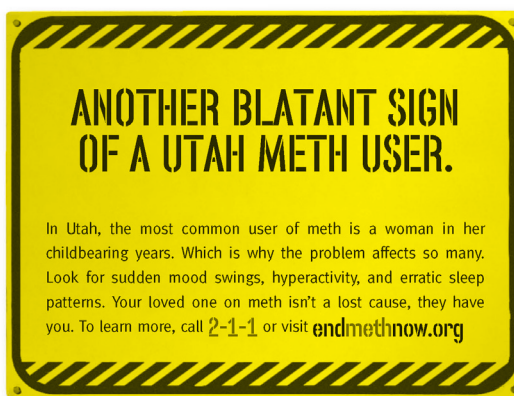
**Next Month the JJS Road Trip will travel to more Centers across the state.**





## Did You Know?

- The vast majority of women seeking substance abuse treatment overwhelmingly name methamphetamine as their primary "substance of abuse"
- More than 58 percent of women seeking substance abuse treatment have dependent children at home
- A large majority of all children placed in the Utah foster care system were removed from their homes due to parental methamphetamine abuse



# The Human Touch

## Change in Overtime Year

As you may be aware, compensatory time earned by an FLSA exempt employee lapses each year at the end of the current overtime year per DHRM Rule R477-8-6 (4)(c). Historically, the overtime year for the Department of Human Services has been pay period 20, which typically falls in late September to early October. Due to third quarter workloads, this overtime year has been problematic for many employees. To alleviate this issue, the Department of Human Services has opted to change the overtime year from pay period 20 to pay period 10, which typically falls in May. Hopefully, this change will allow exempt employees an opportunity to more easily utilize compensatory time before it lapses.

For 2007, the overtime year has been

waived to allow employees to adjust to the change. The 2007 waiver will give FLSA exempt employees until May 16, 2008 to use compensatory hours earned between October 20, 2006 (end of pay period 20) and May 16, 2008 (end of pay period 10). The overtime year will conclude on May 16, 2008 and unused compensatory hours accrued by FLSA exempt employees will lapse. From this point forward, the overtime year will end at the conclusion of pay period 10 each calendar year, and compensatory hours accrued by FLSA exempt employees will lapse at that time.

If you have any questions regarding this change or compensatory time, please contact your assigned DHRM representative.



## Be Our Guest

*By Marilee Greenland, Child & Family Services*

Salt Lake Valley Region Child and Family Services employees celebrated the David C. Lawsuit ending with a "Be Our Guest" breakfast Sept. 21 at the new Training Center next to the DCFS Oquirrh office.

The room was decorated with reminders of 1994 - the year the lawsuit started - including trivia and pictures from movies, record albums and cars.

"Jeopardy," DCFS style, was played. Directors

Staci Ghneim, Diane Moore and Roland Oliver stepping in for Scott Gerber played against supervisors Charlotte Gibbons, Rich Carmen and Karin Thorn and workers Mark Siebert, Gina Millard and April Bennett.

Questions varied from form numbers or names of DCFS forms to movie quotes and songs. It was fun to watch the three teams try to answer some of the questions. The supervisors won after a tough battle.



Playing Jeopardy



Sarah Houser, Deena Ott and others

## Volunteers Wanted

Are you interested in a volunteer program that benefits the seniors in your town? You can be part of a team that delivers hot meals to eligible homebound seniors near your home or workplace by donating one lunch hour a week (or less in some areas).

Individual volunteers as well as organized groups of volunteers are encouraged to participate. Meals are delivered Monday-Friday, with some deliveries on Saturdays (depending on location).

If you are interested in making a difference in the life of one or more elder adults in your area, contact your local area agency on aging or phone 2-1-1 to obtain the phone number of the Area Agency on Aging in your area.





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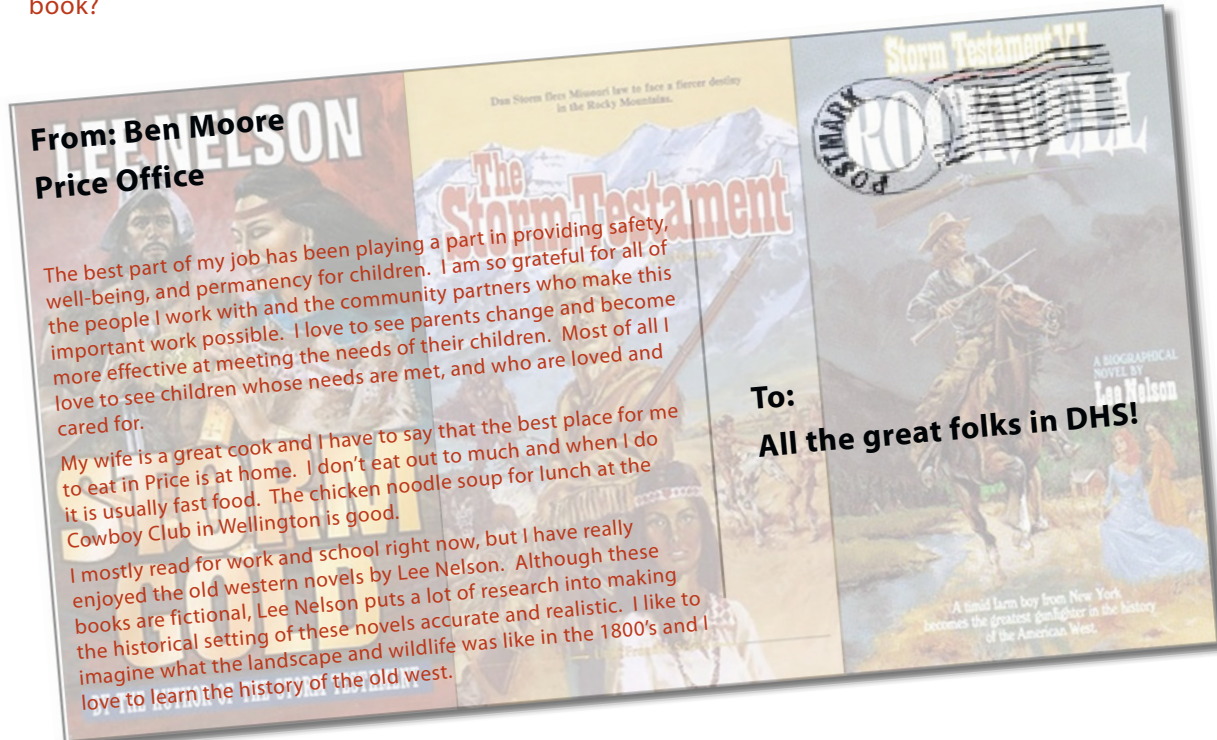
October Edition

## Postcards from Child and Family Services

“Wish you were here!”

### This month's questions:

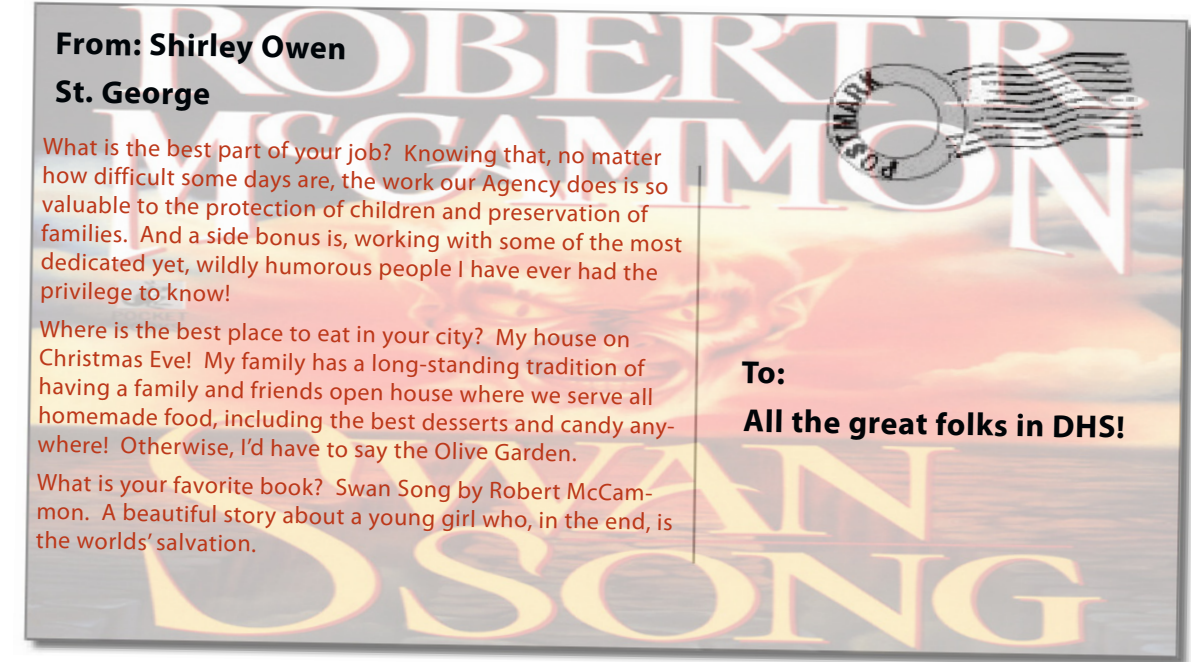
What's the best part of your job? Where is the best place to eat in your area? What is your favorite book?



Thanks to Child and Family Services! Want your region/office to be November's Postcards?  
Have a question to ask? Write to Donna Russell, [DLRussell@utah.gov](mailto:DLRussell@utah.gov)



## A photograph of a desert canyon landscape. In the foreground, there are reddish-brown rock formations and a small green tree. The middle ground shows a large, light-colored rock formation with a dark shadow. The background features a blue sky and distant, hazy mountain ranges.



**From: Shirley Owen  
St. George**

What is the best part of your job? Knowing that, no matter how difficult some days are, the work our Agency does is so valuable to the protection of children and preservation of families. And a side bonus is, working with some of the most dedicated yet, wildly humorous people I have ever had the privilege to know!

Where is the best place to eat in your city? My house on Christmas Eve! My family has a long-standing tradition of having a family and friends open house where we serve all homemade food, including the best desserts and candy anywhere! Otherwise, I'd have to say the Olive Garden.

What is your favorite book? Swan Song by Robert McCammon. A beautiful story about a young girl who, in the end, is the worlds' salvation.

**To:  
All the great folks in DHS!**

*What Direction Are We Headed? Sept. 27, 2007*



## Training Tidbits

Are you yearning for learning? Below are just a few of the upcoming training opportunities supported by the department:

### 11th Annual Conference on Critical Issues Facing Children & Adolescents

November 8-9, 2007

Hilton Salt Lake City Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

For additional/registration information contact ESI Management Group, 801-501-9446 or toll free, 877-501-9446.

Note: Registration fees may apply.

### Hostage Negotiations

November 13, 2007

Salt Lake County Sheriff's Administration Office

Salt Lake City, Utah

For additional/registration information contact Linda Goodrich, 801-799-8493,

[lgoodrich@slco.org](mailto:lgoodrich@slco.org).

Note: \$10 registration fee applies to non-members

### Meth and Families: All-Day Workshop for Families

November 17, 2007

Davis Convention Center

Layton, Utah

For additional/registration information contact Elizabeth Sollis, 801-538-4275, [esollis@utah.gov](mailto:esollis@utah.gov).

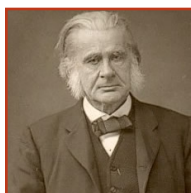
Note: This event is FREE.

### Dementia Syndromes (Presented by Dr. Dan Christensen)

November 29, 2007

Utah State Hospital, Owen P. Heninger Administration Building, Classroom 21

For additional/registration information contact Elaine Angulo, [eangulo@utah.gov](mailto:eangulo@utah.gov), 801-344-4265.



**If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much as to be out of danger?**

- Thomas Huxley

### 8th Annual Suicide Prevention Conference

November 30, 2007

BYU Conference Center

Provo, Utah

For additional/registration information contact Cathy at Provo School District,

[cathyb@provo.edu](mailto:cathyb@provo.edu), 801-374-4808.

Note: Registration fees may apply.

## HELP WANTED

Are you aware of a training or conference that we don't have listed in the Human Touch or online?

If so, please notify Elizabeth Sollis, [esollis@utah.gov](mailto:esollis@utah.gov), 801-538-4275.

You may also submit events online on the department training calendars, [www.hstraining.utah.gov](http://www.hstraining.utah.gov).

## Other Community Events

### Nov. 10 - Veteran's Pow Wow

Indian Walk In Center - SLC

(801) 486-4877

### Nov. 17 - Pow Wow

SL Comm College

4600 S. Redwood Rd

[http://slcc\\_aisl.tripod.com](http://slcc_aisl.tripod.com)



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